

**MINUTES of the ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**  
held at **Felixstowe School**  
on **Thursday 14 May 2026** at 7pm

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

From Felixstowe Town Council:

Cllr C Franklin (Mayor)

Cllr D Aitchison (Deputy Mayor)

Cllr S Bennett

Cllr S Bird

Cllr A Folley

Cllr T Gale

Cllr S Harkin

Cllr D Rowe

Mr A Tadjrishi (Town Clerk)

Mrs D Frost (Deputy Town Clerk)

Mrs S Faversham (Civic Events Officer)

Mr S Congi (Financial Admin Assistant)

Miss H Miles (Communications Officer)

Mrs S Morrison (Planning Admin Assistant)

Approximately 152 members of the public were also in attendance.

**531. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Mayor of Felixstowe welcomed everyone and outlined the format of the meeting.

**532. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 14 May 2025 were confirmed as a true record by those present and the Mayor was authorised to sign them.

**533. MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT**

The Mayor, Councillor Corrine Franklin, reported on the privilege and honour it had been to serve as Mayor and Chair of the Town Council for the past year, paying tribute to the dedicated volunteers, community groups, and vital service providers across Felixstowe.

The Mayor paid tribute to former Town Councillor Margaret Morris, who stepped down during the year after more than ten years of valued, respected, and hardworking service, particularly noting her significant contribution to the Disability Forum.

The Mayor highlighted numerous local events attended throughout the civic year, including the 300<sup>th</sup> Parkrun, the annual Fun Run, the Felixstowe Carnival, the Youth Speaks event at Christ Church, and the Mr Cobbler Sports Awards. Key visits included the QVSR Felixstowe Seafarers Association, jobs fairs at the Leisure Centre and the Salvation Army Citadel, the "Friends Together" gathering, the Lions Club workshop, and the Squirrel Drey Nursery Group. The Mayor celebrated the 116<sup>th</sup> birthday of Felixstowe Hospital and later visited inpatients there on Christmas morning, alongside visiting residents at the Salvation Army. Notable seasonal highlights included the Kids Kitchen

event at The Alex, various school concerts and care home parties, and the postponed Christmas Day Dip on Valentine's Day.

In January, the Mayor attended the moving Flood Memorial Service remembering the 1953 floods, meeting with survivors at Langer School.

International links were strengthened with visits to Wesel, Germany, for the opening of the Rheinbad, and by hosting the Mayor of Salzwedel, Olaf Meining, alongside German youth and delegates during the Mayors' Ball and historic car run.

The Mayor proudly attended a reception at the House of Lords to collect a certificate benchmarking Felixstowe Town Council's shortlisting for the NALC Star Council Awards, in recognition of its climate response work.

The town successfully hosted WAMFest and Felixstowe Harmonies. The Mayor praised the collaborative community effort behind Felixstowe's bid for the "Town of Culture" scheme, themed Felixstowe: Where the World Arrives, focusing on the Port, Fort, and Resort.

Using Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and grant funding, the Town Council successfully upgraded play equipment at Cavendish Park and contributed toward capital projects for Level Two, Felixstowe Rugby Club, Felixstowe and Walton United Football Club, and the Landguard Trust.

The Mayor welcomed the upcoming positive impact of the Pride in Place funding for Western Felixstowe. Regarding upcoming Local Government Reorganisation, the Mayor reassured residents that Felixstowe Town Council would continue in its current form to represent the local electorate.

The Mayor concluded the report by expressing sincere thanks to:

- The Mayor's Cadet, Flight Sergeant Frazer Lack.
- The Town Clerk, the Civic Events Officer and all the Town Council staff.
- Fellow Town Councillors for their voluntary service.
- Her husband, Peter, and family for their unwavering support.
- The Mayoral charities: Felixstowe Opportunity Group and St Philip's Community Hub.
- The wider Felixstowe community for their enduring commitment and support.

#### **534. CIVIC AWARDS 2026**

Awards were presented to the following individuals and organisations for their contribution to supporting and enriching the town, its residents, and visitors:

a) Mayor's Awards 2026

Nicky Hughes. For 40 years of dedicated service as a volunteer coach and founder member of Felixstowe Swimming Club, mentoring and inspiring generations of swimmers within the Felixstowe community.

Kevin Beckett. For his tireless enthusiasm and leadership as Chairman of Felixstowe Hockey Club, revitalising membership and developing the Walking Hockey programme, which has introduced the sport to a wider section of the community.

Isabel Jenkins. For her remarkable and longstanding contribution to the community through her involvement with numerous local organisations, including Mencap, the Trefoil Guild, the 123 Toddler Group, St Philip's Community Hub, Walton Church Hall, and many others.

Ian Clarke. For his significant contribution to Felixstowe's musical community through Musical Circles, The Brawlers, Tuesday Tunes, and Round the Room music nights, alongside his varied fundraising efforts in support of local charities.

Peter Finbow. For his extensive voluntary service through his roles with Felixstowe Old People's Welfare Association and Felixstowe Relief Charity, together with his valued support at the local Audiology Clinic.

b) HMS Ganges Youth Trophy

Ronnie Thorold. For demonstrating resilience and determination in the face of adversity. Following an injury that brought a promising rugby career to an early end, Ronnie channelled his passion for the sport into coaching, becoming a respected mentor to the club's young players and, more recently, to the first team.

c) The Community Award

Pitstop. Pitstop is an outstanding charity that embodies the very best of Felixstowe's community spirit. This year's Community Award recognises the organisation's vital support, practical assistance, and compassionate friendship provided to families across the town.

### **535. PRESENTATION TO MAYOR'S CADET**

The Mayor expressed sincere thanks to Cadet Flight Sergeant Frazer Lack of 356 (Felixstowe) Squadron Air Training Corps for his outstanding dedication and service over the past twelve months.

The Mayor presented Cadet Flight Sergeant Lack with a Certificate of Service in formal recognition of his invaluable contribution and support as the Mayor's Cadet during the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

### **536. PRESENTATION TO MAYOR'S CHARITIES**

The Mayor announced that so far, a total of £16,410 had been raised in support of her two chosen charities: St. Philip's Community Hub and Felixstowe Opportunity Group.

## **537. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS**

The meeting noted the following reports received from community stakeholders:

- 6<sup>th</sup> Felixstowe Scouts
- 8<sup>th</sup> Felixstowe Scout Group
- 356 Felixstowe Air Cadets
- Art on the Prom
- Being Well grant report
- BID - Felixstowe Loves Festivals
- Citizen's Advice
- Compass
- Cuppa
- East Suffolk Council
- Emmaus
- Fairtrade
- F-CAT
- Felixstowe & District Council for Sport and Recreation
- Felixstowe Area Community Transport Service
- Felixstowe Book Festival
- Felixstowe Carnival
- Felixstowe Charities Network
- Felixstowe Disability Pride
- Felixstowe Harmonies
- Felixstowe Lifeboat
- Felixstowe Museum
- Friends of Fairfield and Colneis
- Friends of Seafront Gardens
- Harbour Ferry
- Homestart
- Jenny Riddell-Carpenter MP
- Kingsfleet School Association
- Landguard Bird Observatory
- Landguard Fort
- Langer Primary
- Level Two
- Lions Club of Felixstowe
- Memory Lane
- Mens Shed
- Music In Felixstowe
- Pedal Felixstowe
- Pier Projects Art Agency CIC
- Royal British Legion
- Salzwedel Twinning Association
- SARS
- Save the Children
- Suffolk County Council

- Suffolk Mind
- Suffolk Police & Crime Commissioner
- Suffolk Seal Rescue Unit Report
- Walton Parish Nursing
- WAMFEST
- Wesel Twinning Association

### **538. PUBLIC SESSION**

The Mayor welcomed those present and reminded the meeting that this was the Annual Town Meeting for the civil parish of Felixstowe, at which local electors were invited to speak on any matter of local interest.

The Mayor enquired whether any member of the public wished to raise any matters, and the following updates were received:

Suffolk Coastal MP (Jenny Riddell-Carpenter): Expressed her thanks and pride in the outstanding work being carried out within the local community. The MP highlighted the Town of Culture application and praised the valuable work undertaken to prepare the initial expression of interest. Furthermore, the MP introduced Mrs Shez Hopkins as the newly appointed Chair of the Pride in Place board, noting that recruitment was currently underway for further board members from the community.

Chair of the Pride in Place Board (Shez Hopkins): Spoke in her capacity as Director of Level Two, expressing her delight at being appointed Chair of the Pride in Place board. She praised Felixstowe's strong community spirit, describing it as a town that inspires hope and joy, and encouraged residents to get involved to help shape the town's future. She also commended Jenny Riddell-Carpenter MP for her ongoing commitment to, and care for, the local community.

Following these contributions, the Deputy Mayor thanked the Mayor and congratulated her on an excellent and successful mayoral year.

### **539. CLOSURE**

There being no other questions or comments the meeting was closed at 7.56pm. The Mayor invited all those present to join them in the school atrium for some light refreshments and an opportunity to browse the community stalls.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_